

# ***NEWS from the T&I DEMOCRATS***

***Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Democratic Caucus***

***U.S. House of Representatives, 2163 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515***

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## **Oberstar Urges TSA to Promptly Implement GAO Recommendations**

WASHINGTON— Today, Congressman James L. Oberstar (D-MN), the Ranking Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, sent a letter to the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Assistant Secretary, Edmund S. Hawley, urging him to promptly implement recommendations made recently by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding checked baggage screening.

In November 2003, Oberstar requested a GAO review of the TSA's overall management of checked baggage screening in order to ascertain the agency's ability to electronically screen all checked baggage, as mandated by Congress following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"As a member of the Pan Am 103 Commission in 1989-1990, I have long been a staunch advocate for ensuring that the U.S. has the best possible airline checked baggage security. Prompted by increased passenger traffic and the arbitrary cap of 45,000 TSA screeners, I asked GAO to study whether the full utilization of explosive detection systems would cause unreasonable disruptions and if alternative screening procedures could result in reduced security effectiveness," said Oberstar. "In light of GAO's recent report, it is very clear to me that TSA will need either more screeners or more efficient explosive detection procedures to meet anticipated passenger traffic."

Attached is the full text of Oberstar's letter to Assistant Secretary Hawley.

The GAO study is available at [www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-869](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-869).

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